Burringham
via Doncaster
January 25th 1896.

To the

Chairman

of the Urban District Council

of Scunthorpe.

Sir,

In accordance with the requirements of Art. 18, Sec. 14 of the Local Government Board Order dated March 1891, I now beg to submit my report on the health of the Scunthorpe Urban District during the year ended Decr 31st 1895,

I am

Sir

Your obedient servant

H. R. J. Behrendt.

H. O. H.

# Fifth Annual Report on the Health of the Scunthorpe Urban District. (1895)

## Infectious & Zymotic Diseases.

A. Notifiable. — The register contains 43 entries, against 171 for 1894; 79 for 1893; 61 for 1892, & 26 for 1891. — The diseases notified were: —

Scarlatina — 22 cases, which occurred in a somewhat fitful manner. — The disease seemed to establish itself in the district in September 1893, & prevailed right through 1894. The last case in that year was notified on Dec^r. 24^th., & the 1^st in 1895 on Jan 4^th.. Three cases followed on Jan 15^th (2 in one family), 5 more in February (4 in one family). In April there were 2 cases; in June, one, then after a long interval one in September. On Nov. 1^st, 2 cases were discovered in a family in Wells Street. They had not been medically attended. The mother was quite ignorant of her duties under The Notification Act, the father being at the time in hospital because of injuries the result of accident. In Dec, 3 cases were reported from Mary Street, & one from Manley Street. Cases also occurred at Yarmness, part of which is in the Scunthorpe District — 2 in Nov. & 1 in Dec^r. But these had a different origin from the rest, the infection being imported from Misterton, via Ruvringham.

Diphtheria — 4 cases — 2 occurred at 49 Frodingham Road (1 in March, & 1 in July), & 2 at N° 2 Cemetery Road both on April 13^th.

Croup — 5 cases, one of which proved fatal, viz that of a child 8 months old.

Enteric or Typhoid Fever. — Two notifications were received, the 1^st on Sept 23^rd. The patient was a young man 18 years old. He had not been from home. In & about his home nothing was found to account for his illness. The well supplied 2 houses & there was no evident source of pollution. The milk supply did not seem implicated. — The second case was reported on Sept 27^th. This patient, 14 years old, had been staying in Grimsby, & there are good grounds for belief that he brought the disease with him from there.

Erysipelas — 10 cases, 8 adults & 2 children. These occurred in various parts of the district, some in quite new houses.

B. Not Notifiable: —

Diarrhoea. — 12 deaths were registered as due to diarrhoea. Two were of adults (52 & 74 years of age), one of a child a month old, & all the rest of infants between 4 and 12 months old. The bulk of the cases occurred in August. The amount of diarrhoea-illness must have been considerable, & its cause is to be found in the character of the season — rainfall having been followed by heat. Such conditions favour the growth of disease ferments, & where material for their food

# Fifth Annual Report on the Health of the Hawthorne Urban District. (1895)

is found in abundance, enable them to flourish.

Phthisis — caused 9 deaths during the year. This is the highest number from this cause recorded since 1891, & represents a mortality somewhat over 2 per 1000 of the population. In addition to these deaths, there are 5 which are due to other forms of Tubercular Disease. Of the 4 preceding years, 1893 had the highest numbers under these headings, viz., Phthisis 5, other Tubercular Diseases 7. Taking the figures in Mr. Moxon's reports for the Glanford Brigg Rural District for the 5 years — 1890 to 1894 & adding those of the Scunthorpe District so as to remove the disturbing effect of the division in 1891, when the Scunthorpe U.D. was constituted, the annual average of deaths from Phthisis was 34·6. The average annual population for the same period was 29,959, & the average annual death rate 1·15 per 1000 of inhabitants. Thus the death rate from consumption in Scunthorpe last year was nearly double that of the annual average of larger area).

Influenza. — 5 deaths have been registered as due to Influenza & its complications. This disease is said to have prevailed extensively among children, usually attacking one after another every child in any family where it made its appearance.

Prevention of Disease. — In every case of notifiable infectious disease the premises, where the outbreak occurred, were visited by me, & instructions were given, if this was necessary & had not already been done by the medical attendants, for isolating the sick from the healthy, & for discontinuance of school attendance. Disinfectants were used in the sick rooms. In the Enteric Fever cases orders were given to receive the bowel-discharges into disinfectants, & not to empty them into the pails of the closets, but to bury them at a safe distance from the houses. — In the house where the 2nd Enteric case occurred one of the school-teachers lodged. As the space which separated her bedroom from that of the patient was only small, it was arranged that she should seek shelter elsewhere, until risk of infection was past. — In former reports has been pointed out the impossibility of securing efficient isolation of the sick in their own homes. If efforts to prevent the extension of infectious diseases are to succeed at all, something more than vigilance will be necessary. With the rapid increase of Scunthorpe, & the building of houses in continuous rows, not only is there more material provided, but it is also placed in the most favorable conditions for the spreading of infection. What is here required to check such diseases, is the earliest possible removal to a hospital of the first case that occurs, thorough disinfection of all material which may have received infection, & close watch over the remainder of the household, where the disease has occurred, & restriction of its intercourse with others, until it may reasonably be inferred that no more of its members are likely to be attacked. None of these measures are

possible without an isolation hospital & disinfecting apparatus.

The increase in the number of deaths from Phthisis (Consumption) & Tuberculosis calls for some remarks in this place. Although not a notifiable disease, nor an infectious one to the same degree as others usually so classed, nevertheless there is good evidence of the infectious nature of Phthisis. The infective material is contained in the discharge from the lungs, which patients spit up. The discharge, however, has not the power of giving off to the air this infective material until it becomes dried & pulverized, when every current can sweep it about & carry it to the lungs of other persons. The danger of this last happening is much greater in small, ill ventilated & crowded dwellings, & helps to explain the greater prevalence in such. A good deal might be done to lessen the chances of infection from Phthisis, if measures were taken to destroy the discharges. The spit might be received in some absorbent material like sawdust, & then burnt in the fire. Vessels used for this purpose should not be large, so that frequent emptying would be necessary. After each emptying they should be scalded with boiling water before being freshly charged with sawdust.

Inspection of the District. — Inspections have been made both systematically, & specially when & where necessary. The Inspector's statement which accompanies this report will show the amount of work done in consequence. Of these inspections, here only a few matters need find a place.

Crosby overflow & outfall sewer: On March 19th I reported that houses were being built along the course of this, & that its condition was such as to cause nuisance. By order of the Council it was piped & connected with the sewer in Frodingham Road.

Bakehouses (3) & Workshops (4) were found in a satisfactory condition.

Slaughterhouses (6) — Some of these showed evidence of due regard for cleanliness, others did not & needed a good deal of looking after. Badly kept slaughterhouses can become a serious nuisance, & for every reason it would be to the public advantage, if private slaughterhouses were to cease to exist. On the premises of one butcher it was found that he made use of a pipe house to keep pigs in & by doing so contravened the bye laws. He had to be proceeded against, before he would cease the offence.

As a result of the inspections, & the proceedings taken in consequence, the condition of the District generally speaking has improved. There is however a tendency in several streets for persons to deposit rubbish & refuse in unsuitable places, thus causing nuisance from these accumulations. This might be met by the provision of small boxes, with covers, which should be regularly emptied by the scavengers.

Statistical. — The total Area of the District is calculated at 1041 acres.

The number of Inhabited Houses is about 877

The Population estimated to June 30th 1895 is 4341.
The number of Births registered during the year was 199; boys 108, girls 91.
The Deaths registered in the same time numbered 85; males 49, females 36;
thus the births exceeded the deaths by 114.
Of infants under a year old 40 died.
The Birth Rate for the past year was therefore equal to 45·8, & the Death Rate to 19·6 per 1000 of the population.
The Infantile Mortality (Deaths of children under 1 year old to 1000 births) amounted to 201.
The following table compares the last year with the 4 preceding it, in respect of Births, Deaths, & their respective rates, & the mean population.

| Year | Births | Birth Rate | Deaths | Death Rate | Population |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1891 | 140 | 39·2 | 65 | 18·2 | 3572 |
| —2 | 154 | 40·5 | 45 | 11·8 | 3794 |
| —3 | 170 | 43·2 | 61 | 15·5 | 3929 |
| —4 | 196 | 47·4 | 60 | 14·5 | 4130 |
| —5 | 199 | 45·8 | 85 | 19·6 | 4341 |

This table shews that the increase in the number of births over that of the previous year is only 3, the birth rate having fallen somewhat, & that the number of deaths has increased by 25, & the death rate has become the largest of the series.
Table A shews that the greatest number of deaths took place at ages under 1 year. Again, adhering to the arrangement of ages in periods adopted in Tab. A & adding a column for Infantile Mortality, the following will serve to compare one with another the numbers for the same 5 years.

| | Ages in periods of years | | | | | | Deaths of children under |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year | Under 1 yr | 1 u. 5 yrs | 5 u. 15 yrs | 15 u. 25 yrs | 25 u. 65 yrs | 65 yrs & over | 1 year to 1000 births |
| 1891 | 27 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 14 | 10 | 193 |
| —2 | 26 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 9 | 2 | 169 |
| —3 | 22 | 16 | 0 | 5 | 11 | 7 | 129 |
| —4 | 28 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 15 | 5 | 143 |
| —5 | 40 | 8 | 0 | 8 | 21 | 8 | 201 |

As compared with previous years there has therefor been a great increase of deaths among children under a year old, a less increase at ages between 25 & 65 years, & a slight increase between 15 & 25 years.
Subjecting to examination the deaths of children up to 1 year old, that is including those returned as 1 year old, the following is the result: — They numbered 43, & of these 14 died of diseases of the breathing organs; 10 (including 3 a year old) died of

diarrhoea, 4 of tubercular diseases, 2 of influenza, 1 each of scarlatina & croup, 9 of developmental defects (immaturity & debility), & each of meningitis & convulsions. Diseases of the organs of respiration & zymotics (diarrhoea, influenza &c) were thus the chief contributors to the increased mortality of infants.

Comparison of tab. A 1895, with similar tables for the years 1891-1894 shows that, taking deaths at all ages, last year there has been increase under the following heads: Phthisis, Respiratory diseases, Diarrhoea, Influenza, & Injuries.

Concluding Remarks. — The enormous mortality of infants must be considered unsatisfactory. The Registrar General's report for 1891 states the average annual number of deaths of children under a year old to every 1000 births for the whole of England during the 10 years 1881-1890 at 142, & an increase to 149 in 1891 is there made occasion for special remark. Reference to the figures on the preceding page however shew that Scunthorpe during the years 1891 to 1895 has only had a less proportion in 2 years, & last year has exceeded it greatly - 201 deaths to 1000 births. A like proportion is to be found in certain of the large towns, which have an unenviable notoriety in that respect. It has been shewn above that the increased mortality of children was due to diseases of the organs of breathing, & to diarrhoea. In 1894 however the number of deaths of infants from diseases of the respiratory system was nearly as great. Diarrhoea, therefore, was the ultimate cause of this increase during the past year. Under the head of Diarrhoea the conditions which predispose to its occurrence have been mentioned. Although much has been done to improve the general sanitary condition of the district in the past, continued effort will be required, & much more could be done by intelligent cooperation of a still greater proportion of the public in observing cleanliness in & about their homes, & by aiding the authorities in their efforts to prevent nuisances.

The occurrence of Enteric Fever also demands attention. It cannot now be said that this disease is unknown in Scunthorpe, & the possibility of its extending at some future time should not be lost sight of. With surface wells as the source of water supply, their accidental pollution with matter containing the poison of Enteric Fever may at any moment become a fact, & thus lead to a serious outbreak of disease. It is to be hoped that the difficulties which during the year passed threatened to bring to naught the labours of the Council to obtain for the people a better supply of water both as to source & quality may be satisfactorily overcome, so that ere long one of the greatest avenues to disease may be finally closed.

M. R. J. Behrendt.
M. O. H.

January 1896

Mr. Walter Holt's statement is as follows :—

Inspections :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Ordinary | 2600 |
| Special on complaint | 19 |
| Of 6 Slaughter Houses | 64 |
| " 2 Fishmonger's premises | 24 |
| " 6 Workshops | 6 |
| " houses completed for occupation | 67 |
| " articles of food | 30 |
| " Crosby Sewer, piping of | 43 |
| " outfall sewer, widening of | 23 |
| Clerk's orders served | 29 |
| " " posted | 8 |
| Letters written | 39 |
| Plans of Dwelling Houses — | |
| approved | 82 |
| returned for amendment | 26 |
| " " other Buildings — | |
| approved | 11 |
| returned for amendment | 2 |
| rejected | 2 |
| Nuisances — (reported & abated) | |
| from drains | 23 |
| " privies & ashpits | 16 |
| " defective boxes to closets | 53 |
| " accumulations of manure | 13 |
| " polluted wells | 1 |
| " yards in bad condition | 4 |
| " wet & filthy road-way | 1 |
| " pig keeping | 5 |
| " smoke | 1 |
| Proceedings taken | 1 |

The above is an abstract from my books, shewing the work done in the year ending Dec^r. 31^st. 1895.

Walter Holt.
Inspector & Surveyor.

BRITISH MEDICAL